

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 5 and 14, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version):

1. (Twice Amended) A nonwoven fabric-laminate comprising:

(A) a rigid layer of an entanglement-based nonwoven fabric; and

(B) a bulky layer of a bulky nonwoven fabric having an apparent density lower than that of said rigid layer,

wherein

(i) the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric comprises a merely-entangled nonwoven fabric fused with thermally-fusible fibers,

(ii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is not less than 150 N/50 mm width, and

(iii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric is higher than that of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested. Claims 5 and 14